

The CZAR'S SPY

The Mystery of a Silent Love
Chevalier WILLIAM LE QUEUX
AUTHOR OF "THE CLOSED BOOK," ETC.
ILLUSTRATIONS BY C. D. RHODES

Presently the door opened, and a tall, dark-haired girl in white entered with an inquiring expression upon her face as she halted and bowed to me.

"Miss Lydia Moreton, I believe?" I commenced, and as she replied in the affirmative, I went on: "I have first to apologize for coming to you but Miss Sorbady, the principal of the school at Chichester, referred me to you for information as to the present whereabouts of Miss Elma Heath, who, I believe, was one of your most intimate friends at school." And I added a few words, "I am trying, on behalf of an aunt of hers, to discover her."

"Well," responded the girl, "I have only one or two letters. She's in her uncle's hands, I believe, and he won't let her write, poor girl. She dreads leaving us."

"Why?"

"Ah! she would never say. She had some deep-seated terror of her uncle, Baron Oberg, who lived in St. Petersburg, and who came over at long intervals to see her. But possibly you know the whole story?"

"I know nothing," I cried eagerly. "You will be furthering her interests, as well as doing me a great personal favor, if you will tell me what you know."

"It is very little," she answered leaning back against the edge of the table and regarding me seriously.

"Poor Elma! Her people treated her very badly indeed. They sent her no money, and allowed her no holidays, and yet she was the sweetest-tempered and most patient girl in the whole school."

"And the story regarding her?"

"It was supposed that her people at Durham did not exist. She explained Elma had evidently lived a greater part of her life abroad, for she could speak French and Italian better than the professor himself, and therefore always was the petted. The class revolted, and then she did not complete any more. You see never told us of where she lived when a child. She came from Durham, she said—that was all."

"You had a letter from her after the Baron came and took her away?"

"Three or four, I think. They were all from places abroad. One was from Vienna, one from Milan, and one from some place with an unpronounceable name in Hungary. The last—"

"Yes, the last! I jumped excitedly, interrupting her."

"Well, the last I received only a fortnight ago. If you will wait a moment I will go and get it. It was as strange that I haven't destroyed it."

And she went out, and I heard to the front door of her skirts that she was ascending the stairs.

After five minutes of breathless anxiety she returned, and handing me the letter to read, said:

"It is not in her handwriting—I wonder why?"

The paper was of foreign make, with blue lines ruled in squares. Written in a hand that was evidently foreign for the mistakes in the orthography.

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TOPEKA, Kans., July 10.—O. L. Benton, banker and largest wheat grower in northwestern Kansas, says reports that Kansas wheat will not total above 100,000,000 bushels are sent out for a purpose. He visited the greater part of the Kansas wheat belt and found little damage from Hessian fly or smut. He says the Kansas crop may be safely estimated at around 140,000,000 bushels, and may go above that figure.

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OLD DUTCH SEAPORT AGAIN SEEN AMOUNT OF BUSINESS AGAIN

Little Town of Aardenburg, in the Province of Zealand, is Again Bustling, Busy Seaport.

AARDENBURG, Providence of Zealand, The Netherlands, July 10.—Not since the thirteenth century when it was a leading harbor city and the main port of Northern Flanders, has this ancient little town known such activity as since the outbreak of the European war. Just over the Dutch line from Belgium, Aardenburg has been the first stopping place of hundreds of thousands of homeless fugitives—and many of them have remained and still remain, cared for by their hospitable cousins of the land of Cadzand, as this portion of Flemish Zealand is called by the natives.

Historically, war is neither new nor strange to the Aardenburgers. From the fifth century, when the Castle of Rodenburg, whence the town of today adopted its name, was one of the strongest places of the Lowlands, it has been besieged more than a dozen times, sacked on half a dozen occasions and burned at least three. Pillage and destruction are family traditions with the people of the Land of Cadzand, even so late as the conflict between Holland and Belgium, in 1830. Consequently, when the Germans invaded Belgium, the Aardenburgers set to work as their grandfathers had done to prepare to receive the refugees, the homeless, the wounded, the hungry, desperate, pitiable not-so and victims of war, that drifted over the frontier, dazed by the horrors they had looked upon.

The church of St. Bavo was the center of these preparations of the Aardenburgers. St. Amundus, in the year 633, laid the spiritual cornerstone of this ancient edifice by founding a cloister at the then Rodenburg. In 978, St. Eligius, who appears to have been of the church militant, first and foremost a churchman, to the honor and glory of St. Bavo. By the thirteenth century, Aardenburg had come to be a commercial center of importance, with a harbor that could accommodate 60 ships—a great thing for those days—and it finally possessed two churches renowned throughout the northern countries of Europe for miracles said to have been performed in their holy sanctuaries. Hitler came Philip the Fair of France, drawn by this reputation of piety. In 1430, Edward III of England followed the example of his royal cousin of France, and 159 years later the fifth English Edward paid a similar visit to Aardenburg.

By the middle of the XVII century, however, only St. Bavo's church remained; the other sacred edifices had suffered too grievously from the frequent raids of the neighboring Flemings, and too ill supported the time in the hands of the Black Marauders, Countess of Flanders. Aardenburg was no longer a commercial center, but a small fishing village, and the Catholic population of the Land of Cadzand, it was accordingly divided into two sections, the one serving actively as a church, and the other as a sort of open refuge for those who needed shelter. It was very appropriately in this section of St. Bavo's, known as the "Wandelaar," that the ladies of Aardenburg assembled last August with their sewing machines and bolts of ticking, to make straw mattresses for those whose homes had been destroyed and who singly or in huddled groups crept over the border, their lives unprotected by the catastrophe which had overtaken them.

Then came the fall of Antwerp. No longer in little groups, but in great masses the terrified, fleeing people streamed into Aardenburg. St. Bavo's would not begin to hold the tide of those who arrived by train or team on bicycles, by boat, in carts drawn by dogs, or on foot. But St. Bavo's remained the center of the truly remarkable relief work which the Aardenburgers undertook in that crucial hour when thousands upon thousands of war-driven women and children were saved from death or worse at the hands of the despoilers of their homes. It is still the center of this work, indefinitely lessened of course by now. The great nave, a conglomeration of the architecture of half a dozen periods, according to the whims of whomever restored or repaired it through the centuries, today still shelters a motley gathering. Those who are left, are those who are helpless—without money, work or friends. Yet they are amazingly cheerful, constantly jesting at their own plight and endeavoring themselves in the hearts of the natives of the Land of Cadzand by their industry and pride with which they refuse all but the official assistance of the Relief Committee.

"I cannot understand the ungenerous criticism of the Belgians by my countrymen in other parts of the North-lands," one of the women of Aardenburg, who had been most efficient in directing the relief work, told The Associated Press. "Here at least, they have been wonderful. They have done everything themselves—everything down to the most menial labor. And many of them are not used to that. They still do it. What is so lovable in them is their good humored adaptation to the hardships

California Hotels

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Nearly all residents of this Section anticipate visiting the various California places of interest this summer. Read the following announcements of California's leading Hotels, Apartment Houses, Health, Beach and Mountain Resorts and make early reservations.

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JANE ADDAMS HOME, URGES PEACE MOVE
Miss Jane Addams, photographed since return from Europe.
Miss Jane Addams, chairman of the International Congress of Women for Peace that met at The Hague last April, and who headed the delegations appointed at the conference to visit the various countries on a peace mission, has just returned from Europe. She says that the people of the warring nations are in a mood to consider terms of peace, but that negotiations must come from neutral, and the longer they are delayed the harder will be the task of restoring peace.
Four commissioners of Spanish government have arrived in United States to purchase military supplies.
Director of American Can Co. says company is negotiating for an important European war order.

ELDER STATESMEN OF JAPAN CONDEMNED IN MANY CERTAIN WAYS

Conservative of Elder Statesmen of Island Empire Resulted in Modification of Jap Demands Upon China.

TOYO, July 10.—The status of the genero or elder statesmen in modern Japan has been brought into passionate discussion by the activity of the genero in the recent crisis between Japan and China. While accounts differ as to the way in which the genero interfered at the last moment in the Chinese situation all agree upon the point that it was their conservative influence which induced modifications in the demands upon China at a time when many people were looking for an ultimatum that would be accompanied by harsher instead of more moderate demands.

With a tendency which is, perhaps, the greatest Japanese trait, the genero pluckily held to their viewpoint just as they did before the outbreak of the war between Japan and Germany when they questioned the wisdom of sending an ultimatum and of dragging Japan into a world war. In the case of the German war they were overruled but in the case of China their wisdom and careful counsel carried the day. Now, a cry is coming up among a section of the people to do away with the genero on the ground that new Japan has outgrown their ministrations and that the cabinet, constitutionally created and empowered, should be given full authority as against a body of genero who have no constitutional standing.

The men who curbed the cabinet are, as their title implies, all elderly leaders. Only four in number, they make up in influence what they lack in number. First, there is Marshal Prince Arimoto Yamagata, the great authority in the army, and his old friend, Marquis Masayoshi Matsukata, the great Napoleon of Japanese finance. The others are Marshal Prince Iwano Oyama, another great military figure who also holds the place of lord keeper of the privy seal, and Marquis Kaoru Inouye, another power in a name who is the father of Mr. K. Inouye, the Japanese Ambassador to Great Britain.

According to reliable accounts, the genero, seeking the higher and lasting interests of the Empire, advocated the broad idea that Japan should do nothing to lose the friendship of the friend by powers and that self-restraint instead of unrestrained aggression should be the basic policy towards China. They opposed the suggestion that Baron Kato, the foreign minister, should go to Peking and negotiate with President Yuan Shikai himself. The cabinet pointed out the strength of public opinion in behalf of drastic action in China and referred to the fact that it had already made big concessions in the original demands. In the discussion lasting several days the genero opposed the ultimatum and only consented thereto when the entire group of articles contained in section five of the original demands were abandoned. Their belief was that owing to those conditions China would find no difficulty in accepting. They are reported as insisting that excessive demands by the Japanese at a time when Europe was at war would be interpreted by the world as taking advantage of that war.

The Asahi quotes a genero as saying

BIG TRADE CREDIT.

WASHINGTON, July 10.—An increase of nearly two hundred and ninety-three million dollars in export trade and a decrease of two hundred and twenty million in imports is shown for the eleven months of the European war, according to the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. During May less than four hundred thousand dollars worth of merchandise went to Germany.

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